

Message Text

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SUBJECT: 27TH SESSIION INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE (ICG) OF
WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP).

1. DISCUSSION ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (AGENDA ITEM 4) TOOK UP ALMOST ENTIRE SECOND DAY. THIS INCLUDED ISSUE OF POSSIBLE WFP ASSISTANCE TO NORTH VIETNAM AND PRG, WHICH BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL. DURING COURSE OF DAY'S DISCUSSION, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (OBSERVER) ANNOUNCED CASH CONTRIBUTION TO WFP OF \$3 MILLION AND DELEGATE OF CANADA SAID THAT WITH ADDITION SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS THIS YEAR, ITS TOTAL WFP PARTICIPATION THIS YEAR WOULD PROBABLY BE AT LEAST FOUR TIMES AMOUNT ORIGINALLY PLANNED (I.E. AT LEAST \$80 MILLION IN 1975). WHEN DELIVERED CANADA THUS BECOMES TOP WFP CONTRIBUTOR FOR 1975. WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AQUINO NOTED THAT BIENNIUM TARGET OF \$440 MILLION NOW EXCEEDED.

2. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS SUMMARIZE COUNTRY POSITIONS AND DEBATE ON MAIN ISSUES RAISED OR IMPLICIT IN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL
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STATEMENT, IN ORDER CONTAINED THEREIN.

3. COMMODITY PURCHASES. STATEMENT NOTES THAT BECAUSE DONATIONS IN KIND DO NOT ALWAYS PROVIDE OPTIMAL MIX OF COMMODITIES NEEDED FOR PROGRAMS AND BECAUSE OF IMPROVED CASH POSITION WFP (AS RESULT SAUDI PLEDGE OF \$50 MILLION) WFP INTENDS TO INCREASE COMMODITY PURCHASES FROM \$4 MILLION IN 1974 TO APPROXIMATELY \$20 MILLION PER YEAR. A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES (INCLUDING SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND OF DCS) EXPRESSED HOPE THAT TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE SUCH PURCHASES WOULD BE MADE IN LDCS, CITING STIMULUS TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND POSSIBLE SAVINGS IN TRANSPORT COSTS. (PRESUMABLY BASIS THESE VIEWS IS RESOLUTION 19 OF WFC.) IN VIEW WFP INTENTION TO BECOME SUBSTANTIAL PURCHASER OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, CANADA REQUESTED THAT A STUDY BE MADE OF WFP'S PRACTICES IN THIS REGARD.

4. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMING. DELEGATES IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH WFP'S NEW ORIENTATION TOWARD MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED (MSA) AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, CHILE, TURKEY AND INDON E-
SIA AMONG LDCS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT HIS EMPHASIS SHOULD NOT EXCLUDE PROJECTS ELSEWHERE. CHILE MADE POINT THAT MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS EXIST IN ALL LDCS. NO CLEAR CONSENSUS APPARENT WITH RESPECT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PROPOSAL THAT THREE OF SIX APPROVED, BUT UNSIGNED, PROJECTS BE IMPLEMENTED WHEN RESOURCES BECOME AVAILABLE, WITH REMAINING THREE BEING CANCELLED. PAKISTAN, JAPAN AND GERMANY SUPPORTED ED'S PROPOSAL CUBA USED DISCUSSION AS PRETEXT FOR POLITICAL COMMENTS ON WFP PROGRAMS WITH CHILE, VIETNAM AND CYPRUS, ARGUING THAT WFP DEVOTES TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO TECHNICAL ASPECTS ITS PROGRAMS, NOT ENOUGH TO WHETHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REALLY BEING ADVANCED. CHILE AND TURKEY OBJECTED TO REFERENCES THEIR COUNTRIES AS INAPPROPRIATE, AND WERE SUSTAINED BY CHAIRMAN (DR. TUINMAN, NETHERLANDS). IN REACTION CUBA REMARKS AND SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT BY ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY OBSERVER ON AID TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS (WHICH WFP APPROVED PREVIOUS SESSIONS, OVER US OPPOSITION) NETHERLANDS DELEGATE STATED VIEW THAT WFP WAS BECOMING TOO POLITICAL AND STRESSED NEED FOR WFP TO MAINTAIN TECHNICAL STANDARDS.

5. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS. STATEMENT DRAWS CONCLUSION FROM WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE THAT WFP SHOULD INCREASE RESOURCES DEVOTED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND NOTES THAT THIS WILL REQUIRE SOME REORGANIZATION AND EXPANSION OF STAFF. TO EXTENT CONSENSUS DEVELOPED FROM DISCUSSION IT IS THAT WFP SHOULD CONTINUE PLACE PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BUT THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE SOME EXPANSION IN EMERGENCY OPERATIONS. CANADA SAID IT WANTS TO SEE A STUDY OF THE COSTS, STAFFING AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PROPOSED EMERGENCY UNIT BEFORE MAKING A DECISION. THE ED WILL PRESENT THIS STUDY AT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE IGC.

6. PLEDGING TARGET FOR 1977/78. IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS FIRST DAY, WFP OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT PROPOSED TARGET OF \$750 MILLION FOR 1977/78 BIENNIUM BASED ON TOTAL NEED FOR 900,000 MT FOOD EACH YEAR, OF WHICH 70 PERCENT FATS AND OILS (\$940/MT) AND 13 PERCENT OTHER COMMODITIES (\$1075/MT). WFP OFFICERS STRESSED THAT COMMODITY LEVELS MOST IMPORTANT -- I.E. THAT \$750 MILLION FIGURE NOT SACRED IF SUBSEQUENT ANALYSIS SUGGESTS NEED FOR USING OTHER AVERAGE PRICE ESTIMATES. DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT GENERALLY DIVIDED ALONG DONOR/RECIPIENT LINES. CANADA, JAPAN AND UK URGED NEED FOR REALISM, NOTING PROPOSED TARGET 70 PERCENT ABOVE THAT FOR CURRENT BIENNIUM. US SAID IT MAY BE ABLE TO SUPPORT PROPOSED TARGET WITHOUT SPECIFIC COMMITMENT TO US SHARE BUT JOINED OTHER THREE COUNTRIES IN PREFERENCE FOR DEFERRING DECISION UNTIL OCTOBER WFP SESSION. NETHERLANDS AGREED TO PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE BUT WITH INTERESTING PROVISIO THAT QUALITY OF WFP PROGRAMS MAINTAINED. ON OTHER SIDE OF ISSUE, PAKISTAN, TUNISIA AND INDONESIA TOOK POSITION THAT \$750 MILLION TARGET SHOULD BE VIEWED AS MINIMUM. PAKISTAN AND INDONESIA ARGUED THAT WFP SHOULD PROVIDE AT LEAST 1 MILLION TONS OF GRAIN ANNUALLY. SINCE ED APPARENTLY STILL THINKS IT ESSENTIAL REACH FIRM DECISION ON 1977/78 TARGET AT THIS SESSION, WE EXPECT FURTHER DISCUSSION LATER THIS WEEK OR EARLY NEXT. IF USDEL SATISFIED DECISION CANNOT BE DEFERRED, IT WILL NOT OPPOSE TARGET OF \$750 MILLION AND REPEAT STATEMENT THIS IS WITHOUT SPECIFIC COMMITMENT TO THE US SHARE.VOLPE

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